My name is Mary Hamilton.

Concerned by technology's growing exploitation of women, this year's International Women's Day launched a collaboration between pro-choice and pro-life women called Hands off Our Ovaries.[1]

SCIENCE Magazine recently noted that obtaining eggs for research, is a " major challenge facing human embryonic stem cell research"[2] – or hES for short. Doctors should recommend against non-medical donations since, "up to 10% of women who undergo ovarian stimulation experience severe ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS), which can cause pain, and occasionally leads to hospitalization, renal failure, potential future infertility, and even death."[3] Yet has no "clearly established benefits to the recipient"[4]. The risk "is incurred not in the actual research but in the procurement of materials for the research"[5].

Many progressive countries ban egg giving[6], yet this bill relies on putting women's health at risk so researchers can explore a theoretical avenue that has neither exhausted animal models, nor been proven as safe or more effective than other avenues.

Divided equally, there are only 220/state clinic embryos available for research[7] and researchers don't really want them.[8] So, this bill relies on fresh embryos from newly harvested eggs – which are available from only one segment of the population – ovulating women.[9]

Yet, 1% of donors suffer "serious long-term consequences"[10].

One percent. At best, cloning would have a 1:1 egg to clone ratio. If 1/2 the country could benefit from stem cell research, one would need 150 million eggs, from 15 million women – resulting in up to 1.5 million women with OHSS - and 150,000 previously healthy young women suffering 'serious long-term consequences'. Dr. Hwang went through thousands of eggs and obtained no clones. He coerced women to donate – and 19% of them suffered OHSS.[11] Women exploited .... thousands of eggs ... wasted ... when primate was unachieved.[12]

What's more, hES accrue genetic changes over time[13], and form tumors.[14] Though rare when the donor and recipient are of different species, over 70% of mice receiving ES from mice develop tumors[15]. Can human safety be assured?

Yet, many scientists claim they may be better, since they obviously can become any part of the body, yet it's this ability that causes tumors. In reality, the scientists can't actually use *embryonic* cells in a test subject. The cells must be differentiated. This bill places no gestational age limit on the created embryo, theoretically allowing experimentation through adulthood - as long it can be sustained without implantation.

This rat had a spinal injury - and now can walk along a rope. Laura Dominguez was paralyzed from the chest down for two years. After treatment with her own stem cells, she can use a walker and stand ... on her toes.[16]

And, without putting women's health at risk.

Embryonic stem cells have shown promise[17]. But in head to head studies, adult cells[18] out perform them in: the number of axons myelinated per cell; the thickness of myelination; and post-myelination nerve signal conduction speed.

Myelin plays an important role with MS. As an autoimmune disease, a 'cure' for MS is far more complicated than simply replacing damaged nerves. This is Jennifer Molson. MS left her with no feeling from her chest to her toes. After treatment with her own stem cells, she danced on her wedding day.[19]

Without putting women's health at risk.

This is Edjuana Ross. Lupus had attacked her skin, brain, and heart[20]. She is one of the 50% of lupus patients with organ failure who remain disease free 5 years after participating in a clinical study.[21] Organ repair has been noted.[22]

Without putting women's health at risk.

Crohns is another autoimmune disease that has been treated with the same technique as MS & Lupus. 80% severe Crohns patients were put remission[23] and insurance companies have begun to pay for it.[24]

Without putting women's health at risk.

Dr. Dennis Turner's Parkinson's was in remission for 4 years.[25]

Without putting women's health at risk.

Post-natal stem cells have eliminated the need for heart transplants[26], and insulin[27] in some patients. Embryonic stem cells haven't produced the beta cells needed for insulin, but they did produce plenty of tumors[28].

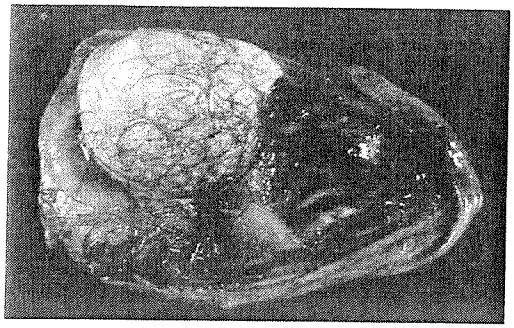
Embryonic quality stem cells have been found in placentas[29], cord blood[30], amniotic fluid[31], hair follicles[32], fat[33]. A rat with a liver disorder made a full recovery three weeks after it received a dental pulp transplant.[34] Adult "Blastomere-Like Stem Cells (BLSCs)," were reported yesterday.[35]

All recoverable *without putting women's health at risk.*

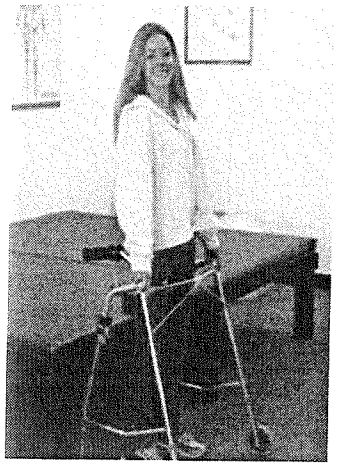
The NIH funded 20x the ES projects as cord blood stem cell projects[36]. The U.S. has few restrictions and provides more money on hES than most countries combined.[37] ... yet the results are not there.

A former NIH Director stated, "Ordinary people care about the destinations of science - the answers, the miracles, the cures. But a scientist cares most deeply about the journey itself."[38] So, they accept the risk to women's health as statistically insignificant, because "basic research is just as deserving of support as therapeutic trials, but it's a harder sell"[39]

Today, you'll hear many promises of the potential of embryonic stem cells. One promise you won't never hear that women won't suffer serious long-term consequences, including death, to provide research materials for studies that didn't lead to a cure.



A Parkinson's patient in China had ESC's injected into his brain. After a brief period of recovery, he died. An autopsy was performed and a large tumor known as a teratoma was found in his brain.



Laura was 16 will when she was in a terrible car accident in San Antonio, TX which resulted in a C6 spinal injury leaving here a quadriplegic with no feeling or movement below her neck. She traveled to Portugal where Dr. Lima took stem cells from her olfactory mucosa and injected them into C6 injured area. Today, Laura has nearly all her feeling back and is walking with the assistance of braces and a walker. Dr. Lima's revolutionary procedure has successfully treated 26 other individuals suffering from a spinal cord injury.

Jennifer Molson's MS caused her to lose all the sensation from the middle of her chest to her toes. After treatment with her own stem cells, she's able to drive, walk without a cane … and even danced at her wedding.

Edjuana Ross' 1st 32 years of life was a living hell due to the terrible autoimmune disease known as lupus. She suffered from congested heart failure which left her tired and lethargic, often sleeping 12-14 hrs/day. She had 3 mini-strokes and experience horrific headaches due to inflamed blood vessels in her brain. Her skin was scarred and she had gained over 100 lbs because of the corticosteroids. Edjuana was given 5 yrs to live. However, following a procedure where her own stem cells were injected into her bone marrow, Edjuana is free of all symptoms of lupus and is finally living a happy & productive life. 50 other people have undergone this same procedure. 40 are still alive and 25 are symptom free. The Lupus foundation is astounded by these results and is very optimistic of future treatment.

Dennis Turner suffered from Parkinsons. Treatment with his own stem cells reduced his symptoms so much he could put in his contacts and independent doctors unaware of his condition didn't diagnose him with Parkinson's. Sadly, after 4 years his symptoms are beginning to return – on the untreated side.

End Notes
(Citation format may not meet. Testimony w/links will be posted at StemCellsCure.info by March 30, 2006. For more depth of research on all stem cell sources a weekly local cable access show is in production for Lansing area audiences.)

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If we put nuclei isolated from skin or other cells to the egg, it contains memory to become skin some extent.
So, it may not develop into the normal embryo to generate stem cells. Now we are working on the adult bone marrow stem cells to make neurons and retinal cells. It is promising and we will continue this direction."
Wilmut, Ian (Personal Communication, February 13, 2003) "data seems to say that for any given clone, any given gene, the chance of being expressed is random. Seems to be no consistency between clones."
Dr. Jean D. Peduzzi-Nelson, Ph.D. Senate Testimony, July 14, 2004. "It often stated that there is no chance of human reproductive cloning because 99.2% of cloned embryos can not survive. However, these same faulty cloned embryos are being praised as being a source of valuable stem cells that will advance the cure of genetic disorders. If these cloned human

embryos are so abnormal that they almost never can survive in the womb then stem cells derived from them would also abnormal and not useful for research." http://commerce.senate.gov/hearings/testimony.cfm?id=1268&wit_id=3671
Human cloning unlikely Primate NT appears to be challenged by stricter molecular requirements for mitotic spindle assembly than in other mammals. In cattle, the somatic centrosome is transferred during NT, whereas mice rely on the oocyte's maternal centrosome. Also, NuMA and HSET are not exclusively concentrated on the meiotic spindle in mammals other than primates. With current approaches, NT to produce embryonic stem cells in nonhuman primates may prove difficult--and reproductive cloning unachievable. " (Science 11 April 2003: 297)
Hwang claims of cloning only required egg from same female cloned ... as such could only clone ovulating females, procedure would not help males at all.
Op. Cit., Wilmut, Ian. Cloning not intended for therapy Dr. Wilmut wants to use them primarily "to produce neural populations from patients with motor neurone disease in order to be able to have in the lab the damaged cells for study, to test new drugs and to assess the effect of normal cells. Secondly to produce hepatocytes of different genotypes to study responses to drugs as a means of improving both safety and effectiveness of medicines." [Note, Not to "*put the products back into a patient*".]

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If establishing ES cell lines is tricky, guiding their differentiation is a scientific nightmare."

[15] Marcel Dihné (Feb. 2, 2006), Embryonic stem cell-derived neuronally committed precursor cells with reduced teratoma formation after transplantation into the lesioned adult mouse brain, http://stemcells.alphamedpress.org/cgi/content/abstract/2005-0413v1?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=1&andorexacttitle=and&titleabstract=teratoma&andorexacttitleabs=and&andorexactfulltext=and&searchid=1139738295380_28&FIRSTINDEX=0&sortspec=relevance&journalcode=stemcells

[16] Innovation, Life Inspired (April 13, 2004), Miracle Cell, http://www.pbs.org/wnet/innovation/transcript_episode6.html
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On the same day Ms. Susan Fajt testified "On November 17, 2001, I suffered a spinal cord injury and became paralyzed in an auto accident" ... "on June 17th, 2003. I was the 11th patient in the world, and the third from the United States, to receive this treatment. " ... "But most important on my way to recovery is that I can now walk with the aid of braces. I am now preparing to shed the shell of this wheelchair, which has confined me for over two years, to more often use my braces and walker for mobility." http://commerce.senate.gov/hearings/testimony.cfm?id=1268&wit_id=3674

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